

Thank-less Giving

This message explores the importance of showing gratitude and giving grace even when we don't receive thanks or recognition in return. You'll be encouraged to focus on pleasing God rather than seeking appreciation from others as you continue to serve others.

Thank-less Giving (Stand Alone Message by Rick Atchley)

1. Rick began by pointing out that *“Even when we serve with good motives, it feels good for our service to get noticed.”* How has that been true from your experience? What are some good deeds you've done that went unnoticed and how did that make you feel? Follow up: When has the Holy Spirit given you the power to do the right thing even when it was hard?
2. **THANKSGIVING... *is not a given.* Read Luke 17:11-19.** Most of the time the focus in the application of this story is on the one who returned and was thankful. But Rick turned our attention to being like Jesus. What in this passage gives us insight into Jesus' character? With that in mind, how should we respond when others don't respond with gratitude?
3. **GIVE THOUGHT... *God's affirmation is more important than anyone's appreciation.*** Why is it important to focus on God's affirmation instead of seeking approval from others (see **Matthew 5:16 & 6:1-4**)? Follow up: In what areas of your life do you struggle with seeking approval from others? How can you shift your focus towards God's affirmation?
4. **GIVE THOUGHT... *Those you serve most consistently tend to say thanks most infrequently.* What we regularly anticipate we rarely celebrate.** Why is that usually the case? Follow up: Who are some of the people who serve you so consistently that it is easy to overlook their selflessness? What is one way you can show them appreciation this week?
5. **GIVE THOUGHT... *What others fail to recognize never goes unnoticed by God. What earth ignores heaven adores.*** How does it make you feel knowing that God notices what others fail to recognize? Follow up: Why is it important to continue doing good deeds even when they go unnoticed by others?
6. **SO GIVE... *Let's give because we're thankful, not to get thanked.*** What are some reasons people might not express gratitude when they should, and how can we respond graciously in those situations? Follow up: Who is someone you can bless this week? Spend some time praying for them and how you can best serve them this week.

